

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 14, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 stand rejected. Claims 10, 23, and 25-29 have been canceled.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated October 14, 2003, for the above-identified patent application from January 14, 2004, through and including February 14, 2003. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$110.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter recited in Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 is described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art of dynamoelectric machines would know the vibratory effects generated on machine and related component parts such as bracket assemblies.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertion in the Office Action that one of ordinary skill in the art would not know "how do the plates help achieve the desired [natural] frequency, how is the stiffness related to obtaining a desired frequency, how is the desired frequency determined, how the brackets accomplish such task, does reinforcing the bracket assembly automatically provide a desired "natural frequency", and what is considered a natural frequency." The Federal Circuit has opined in *Verve LLC v. Crane Cams, Inc.*, 65 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053-1054 (Fed. Cir. 2002), that "[p]atent documents are written for persons familiar with the relevant field; the patentee is not required to include in the specification information readily understood by practitioners, lest every patent be written as a comprehensive tutorial and treatise for the generalist, instead of a concise statement for persons in the field." In the present case, Applicant respectfully submits that the specification

is complete and that one skilled in the art would understand how a bracket assembly is effectively configured to avoid excitation by undesirable frequencies, for example natural frequencies. Furthermore, and for example, the specification, on page 5, at lines 4-8, states that “[b]racket support assembly 44 adds stiffness to bracket assembly 32 and reinforces bracket assembly 32. Because of the reinforcement, bracket assembly 32 provides a configuration effectively achieving the desired natural frequency which is unlikely to be excited in use.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter recited in 1-9, 11-22, and 24 is described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 are definite. Specifically, Applicant has amended Figure 3 to comply with the specification and has added Figures 4-6 to clarify the structure and the relationship of base plate 40, end plates 48 and 50, and support plates 54 and 62 as disclosed in Figure 3 and the specification. Applicant respectfully submits that end plates 48 and 50 and support plates 54 and 62 are shown in Figures 3-6 as separate portions of a bracket assembly 32.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that an artisan of ordinary skill in the art would understand that end plates 48 and 50 and support plates 54 and 62 are separate portions of bracket assembly 32 after reading the specification in view of the current drawings. For example, on page 3, at lines 10 and 11, the specification states that a bracket support assembly 44 includes “a support member 46, a first end plate 48, and a second end plate 50.” Furthermore, and for example, the specification states, on page 3, at lines 17 and 18, that “a first support plate 54 extends from first end plate 48” and, on page 3, at lines 22 and 23, “[a] second support plate 62 extends from second end plate 50...” In addition, Applicant submits that a base plate intermediate region 70 is shown in Figures 3-6 to be an intermediate region of a base plate 40, and thus base plate intermediate region 70 represents an intermediate portion of base plate 40. Furthermore, Applicant submits that an artisan of ordinary skill in

the art would understand that base plate intermediate region 70 represents an intermediate portion of base plate 40 after reading the specification in view of the current drawings. For example, on page 3, at lines 30 and 31, the specification states that “[f]irst support plate 54 and second support plate 62 are separated by a base plate intermediate region or arc segment 70.” Additionally, Applicant submits an artisan of ordinary skill in the art would understand the structure of bracket assembly 32 including support member 46 after reading the specification in view of the current drawings. For example, the specification, on page 3, at lines 11 and 12, states that “[s]upport member 46 is a semi-annular ring extending between first end plate 48 and second end plate 50. In an alternative embodiment, support member 46 is fabricated from a plurality of members to form a curved section that extends between first end plate 48 and second end plate 50.” For at least the reasons set forth above, Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 are submitted to be definite.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 14-17, 19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dochterman (US 4,186,319) is respectfully traversed.

Dochterman describes a pair of unitary end shields (14 and 16) that each include a circular portion (23) having a cylindrical portion (24). The cylindrical portion (24) extends rearwardly and is configured to accommodate a sleeve bearing (17). The circular portion (23) further includes a central annular portion (30) surrounding the portion (24). Four radial spokes (32) extend from the central portion (30) to a circumferentially extending edge portion (34). The central portion (30), the spokes (32), and the edge portion (34) are substantially coplanar and define four wedge shaped areas (36). Edge portion (34) includes an area (40) of enlarged width between each adjacent pair of spokes, wherein areas (40) define clamp bolt mounting pads. Notably, endshields (14 and 16) do not include at least one support member extending from a first end plate and a second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to the at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure.

Claim 1 recites a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine, wherein the bracket assembly comprises “a base plate...a bracket support assembly extending from said base plate, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate...and at least one support plate

extending from one of said first end plate and said second end plate, said support member connected to said at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure”.

Dochterman does not describe nor suggest a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine, wherein the bracket assembly includes a base plate, and a bracket support assembly extending from the base plate and including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Dochterman describes a pair of unitary endshields for a stator housing, wherein the endshields include are configured to accommodate a sleeve bearing such that an indented area is provided. Applicant respectfully submits that the indented area is not an enclosure, and as such, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman

Claims 2-4, 9, and 11 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-4, 9, and 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-4, 9, and 11 likewise are patentable over Dochterman.

Claim 14 recites a dynamoelectric machine comprising “a frame...a rotor... comprising a rotor shaft...a bracket assembly coupled to said frame and receiving said rotor shaft, said bracket assembly comprising a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate...and at least one support plate extending from one of said first end plate and said second end plate, said support member connected to said at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure”.

Dochterman does not describe nor suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a frame, a rotor having a rotor shaft, and a bracket assembly coupled to the frame and receiving the rotor shaft, wherein the bracket assembly includes a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom and including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, and at least one support plate extending from

one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Dochterman describes a pair of unitary endshields for a stator housing, wherein the endshields include are configured to accommodate a sleeve bearing such that an indented area is provided. Applicant respectfully submits that the indented area is not an enclosure, and as such, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman.

Claims 15-17, 19, and 22 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of Claims 15-17, 19, and 22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 15-17, 19, and 22 likewise are patentable over Dochterman.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 14-17, 19, and 22 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 18, 21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby et al. (“Periyathamby”) (US 1,905,411) is respectfully traversed.

Dochterman is described above. Periyathamby describes an ultra quiet motor (10) that includes a housing (12) defining an internal cavity (14) and an end cap (17) mounted to the rear end of the motor housing. The end cap defines a central hub portion (44) and a stepped region (46) extending outwardly from the central hub portion. The central hub portion is configured to mount a rear bearing assembly (22). A peripheral lip portion (48) extends circumferentially about the end cap and is dimensioned to minimize surface vibration of the end cap.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. Neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed

combination. Furthermore, in contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Dochterman with Periyathamby, because there is no motivation to combine the references suggested in the art. Additionally, the Examiner has not pointed to any prior art that teaches or suggests to combine the disclosures, other than Applicant's own teaching. Rather, only the conclusory statement that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design an bracket system as disclosed by Dochterman and to modify the invention by disclosing arc segments for the purpose of effectively minimizing vibration of parts and reducing noise as disclosed by Periyathamby" suggests combining the disclosures.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicant's disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. In re Vaack, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion or motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Furthermore, it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the cited art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art. The present Section 103 rejection is based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Since there is no teaching nor suggestion in the cited art for the combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicant requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

Further, and to the extent understood, neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed combination, and as such, the presently pending claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited combination. Specifically, Claim 1 recites a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine, wherein the bracket assembly comprises “a base plate...a bracket support assembly extending from said base plate, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate...and at least one support plate extending from one of said first end plate and said second end plate, said support member connected to said at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure”.

Neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine, wherein the bracket assembly includes a base plate, and a bracket support assembly extending from the base plate and including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Dochterman describes a pair of unitary endshields for a stator housing, wherein the endshields include are configured to accommodate a sleeve bearing such that an indented area is provided. Applicant respectfully submits that the indented area is not an enclosure, and as such, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Accordingly, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, Periyathamby describes an end cap for an electric motor having a peripheral lip dimensioned to minimize surface vibration, but does not describe nor suggest a first end plate extending from a base plate, a second end plate extending from a base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 13 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1,

Applicant submits that dependent Claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 13 are likewise patentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby.

Claim 14 recites a dynamoelectric machine comprising “a frame...a rotor...comprising a rotor shaft...a bracket assembly coupled to said frame and receiving said rotor shaft, said bracket assembly comprising a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate...and at least one support plate extending from one of said first end plate and said second end plate, said support member connected to said at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure”.

Neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a frame, a rotor having a rotor shaft, and a bracket assembly coupled to the frame and receiving the rotor shaft, wherein the bracket assembly includes a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom and including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Dochterman describes a pair of unitary endshields for a stator housing, wherein the endshields include are configured to accommodate a sleeve bearing such that an indented area is provided. Applicant respectfully submits that the indented area is not an enclosure, and as such, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Accordingly, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, Periyathamby describes an end cap for an electric motor having a peripheral lip dimensioned to minimize surface vibration, but does not describe nor suggest a first end plate extending from a base plate, a second end plate extending from a base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby.

Claims 18, 21, and 24 depend from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of Claims 18, 21, and 24 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14,

Applicant submits that dependent Claims 18, 21, and 24 are likewise patentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests the Section 103 rejection of Claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 18, 21, and 24 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 7 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby as applied to Claims 6 and 18 above, and further in view of Booth et al. ("Booth") (US 6,129,194) is respectfully traversed.

Dochterman and Periyathamby are described above. Booth describes an armature assembly 38 for a selectively engageable and disengageable electromagnetic coupling 20. Armature assembly 38 includes a hub 64 having a central axis 28 that is disposed radially outwardly, and mounted for rotation with, a shaft 26 used to drive an air-conditioning compressor 22. Armature assembly 38 also includes a resiliently flexible spider 66 disposed radially outwardly of hub 64. Spider 66 is fixed against rotation relative to hub 64, but is able to flex axially relative to hub 64 at a hinge 84. Armature assembly 38 further includes an annular armature disc 68 disposed radially outwardly of hub 64 and connected to a first side of spider 66. In addition, armature assembly 38 includes a counterweight 70 disposed on a second side of spider 66. Counterweight 70 may be integral with spider 66 or connected to hub 64.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. None of Dochterman, Periyathamby, nor Booth considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, in contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Dochterman and Periyathamby with Booth, because there is no motivation to combine the references suggested in the art. Additionally, the Examiner has not pointed to any prior art that teaches or suggests to combine the disclosures, other than Applicant's own teaching. Rather, only the conclusory statement that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design an bracket system as disclosed by Dochterman and to modify the invention by placing an intermediate end radially

to a support member for the purpose of balancing the dynamic forces generated by a load as disclosed by Booth” suggests combining the disclosures.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicant’s disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant’s disclosure. In re Vaeck, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion or motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Furthermore, it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the cited art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art. The present Section 103 rejection is based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Since there is no teaching nor suggestion in the cited art for the combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicant requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

Further, and to the extent understood, neither Dochterman nor Booth, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed combination, and as such, the presently pending claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited combination. Specifically, Claim 7 depends from independent Claim 1 which recites a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine, wherein the bracket assembly comprises “a base plate...a bracket support assembly extending from said base plate, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate...and at least one support plate extending from one of said first end plate and said

second end plate, said support member connected to said at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure”.

None of Dochterman, Periyathamby, nor Booth, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine, wherein the bracket assembly includes a base plate, and a bracket support assembly extending from the base plate and including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Dochterman describes a pair of unitary endshields for a stator housing, wherein the endshields include are configured to accommodate a sleeve bearing such that an indented area is provided. Applicant respectfully submits that the indented area is not an enclosure, and as such, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Accordingly, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, Periyathamby describes an end cap for an electric motor having a peripheral lip dimensioned to minimize surface vibration, but does not describe nor suggest a first end plate extending from a base plate, a second end plate extending from a base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Additionally, Booth describes an armature assembly with a selectively engageable and disengageable electromagnetic coupling, but do not describe nor suggest a first end plate extending from a base plate, a second end plate extending from a base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby in view of Booth.

Claim 7 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 7 likewise is patentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby in view of Booth.

Claim 20 depends from independent Claim 14 which recites a dynamoelectric machine comprising “a frame...a rotor...comprising a rotor shaft...a bracket assembly

coupled to said frame and receiving said rotor shaft, said bracket assembly comprising a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate...and at least one support plate extending from one of said first end plate and said second end plate, said support member connected to said at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure”.

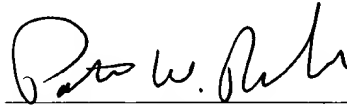
None of Dochterman, Periyathamby, nor Booth, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a frame, a rotor having a rotor shaft, and a bracket assembly coupled to the frame and receiving the rotor shaft, wherein the bracket assembly includes a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom, the bracket support assembly includes a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Dochterman describes a pair of unitary endshields for a stator housing, wherein the endshields include are configured to accommodate a sleeve bearing such that an indented area is provided. Applicant respectfully submits that the indented area is not an enclosure, and as such, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Accordingly, Dochterman does not describe nor suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, Periyathamby describes an end cap for an electric motor having a peripheral lip dimensioned to minimize surface vibration, but does not describe nor suggest a first end plate extending from a base plate, a second end plate extending from a base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate, wherein the support member is connected to at least one support plate forming at least one enclosure. Additionally, Booth describes an armature assembly with a selectively engageable and disengageable electromagnetic coupling, but do not describe nor suggest a first end plate extending from a base plate, a second end plate extending from a base plate, and at least one support plate extending from one of the first end plate and the second end plate. For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby in view of Booth.

Claim 20 depends from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of Claim 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 20 likewise is patentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby in view of Booth.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests the Section 103 rejection of Claims 7 and 20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick W. Rasche", written over a horizontal line.

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